

Message Text

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42 70

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 PA-02 PRS-01 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 INRE-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 SS-15 SSO-00

DHA-02 /066 W

----- 050897

O 201602Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO USINFO WASHDC IMMEDIATE

SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5588

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE

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UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 PRETORIA 4239

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (SECTION INFO)

PART ONE OF TWO

USIA FOR IOP/IAA

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: MEDIA REPORTING KISSINGER AFRICA TRIP

1. KISSINGER MADE FRONT PAGE HEADLINE NEWS ALL MAJOR S.A.
PAPERS AND MOST EDITORIAL COLUMNS SEPTEMBER 20. ALSO LEAD
ITEM ON SABC RADIO AND TELEVISION NEWSCASTS.

2. PIETERMARITZBURG/ENGLISH PAPER "NATAL WITNESS" HEADLINE
"PROGRESS ON RHODESIA AT 3-POWER SUMMIT." REPORT SAID
SECRETARY'S SUNDAY NIGHT STATEMENT "INDICATED PROGRESS HAD
BEEN MADE TOWARDS RHODESIAN SETTLEMENT." PAPER EDITORIALIZED
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QUOTE ON SATURDAY RSA'S BLACK LEADERS TOLD DR. KISSINGER

HE WAS TALKING TO THE LAST GENERATION OF BLACKS PREPARED TO NEGOTIATE FOR A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT IN SOUTH AFRICA. UNHAPPILY, THERE IS MORE THAN MERE RHETORIC IN THE ASSERTION. EVER SINCE THE FIRST NATIONALIST GOVERNMENT ASSUMED POWER IN 1924 THERE HAS BEEN A STEADY, SYSTEMATIC, REMORSELESS EROSION OF BLACK RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES. UNQUOTE.

3. DURBAN ENGLISH PAPER "NATAL MERCURY" HEADLINE "BREAK-THROUGH: SMITH SAYS YES TO MAJORITY RULE." REPORT SAID

"CHANCES OF A RHODESIAN SETTLEMENT HAVE IMPROVED DRAMATICALLY AND NOW REST WITH DR. KISSINGER. INFORMED SOURCES INDICATED LAST NIGHT MR. SMITH HAD AGREED TO MAJORITY RULE IN A SPECIFIC TIME AND IT APPEARED UNLIKELY HIS CABINET OR CAUCUS WOULD REJECT THE DEAL." PAPER EDITORIALIZED QUOTE THERE IS NOT MUCH POINT IN RSA SEEKING DIALOGUE WITH BLACK AFRICA IF THE GOVERNMENT IS NOT GOING TO LISTEN SERIOUSLY AND ATTENTIVELY TO WHAT ITS OWN BLACKS ARE SAYING HERE AT HOME. WHAT BLACK AFRICA UNDERSTANDS BY DETENTE IS OFTEN QUITE DIFFERENT FROM WHAT MOST WHITE SOUTH AFRICANS UNDERSTAND IT TO MEAN. AND THERE IS A SIMILAR SORT OF MISUNDERSTANDING OVER THE MEANING OF THE NOW WELL-WORN DIPLOMATIC CLICHE THAT RSA HOLDS THE KEY TO PEACE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. MANY SOUTH AFRICANS SEEM TO SEE IT PROUDLY OR COMPLACENTLY AS AN ADMISSION BY OTHERS OF THEIR DOMINANT STRENGTH AND INFLUENCE, THEIR ECONOMIC MUSCLE AND MILITARY POWER IN THE REGION. THAT IS PARTLY TRUE BUT IT IS NOT WHAT DR. KISSINGER OR OUR FRIENDS IN THE WEST, OR THE BLACK FRONT-LINE PRESIDENTS WHO CONTROL THE SLUICE GATES OF AN ALL-OUT TERRORIST WAR MEAN WHEN THEY TALK ABOUT RSA HOLDING THE KEY. AFRICAN, COLORED AND INDIAN PEOPLE OF RSA WILL BE SATISFIED WITH NOTHING LESS THAN FULL RECOGNITION OF THEIR DIGNITY AND HUMANITY, MEANINGFUL PARTICIPATION IN POLITICAL DECISION MAKING, AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR A FAIR SHARE OF THEIR COUNTRY AND ITS GREAT WEALTH AND POTENTIAL...WHATEVER DR. KISSINGER CAN DO TO PERSUADE MR. VORSTER TO THAT POINT OF VIEW IS AT LEAST AS IMPORTANT IN THE LONG RUN AS HIS INITIATIVE ON RHODESIA AND SWA. UNQUOTE.

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4. DURBAN ZULU PAPER "ILANGA" HEADLINE "GATSHA BUTHELEZI TELLS DR. K TO CONTACT AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS." REPORT SAID SECRETARY "HAD BETTER START SATISFYING AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS, PAN AFRICANIST CONGRESS (BOTH BANNED) AND BLACK SOUTH AFRICANS HE HAS GOOD INTENTIONS FOR ALL IN SOUTHERN AFRICA" IF HE SOUGHT SUCCESS.

5. CAPE TOWN ENGLISH PAPER "CAPE TIMES" HEADLINE "HISTORIC

3-WAY SUMMIT: SMITH HOME WITH KISSINGER PROPOSALS." REPORT
QUOTED SECRETARY'S SUNDAY EVENING STATEMENT. PAPER EDITOR-
IALIZED QUOTE A GREAT DEAL IS AT STAKE IN THE KISSINGER
SUMMIT WHICH REACHED A CLIMAX AT THE WEEKEND. THERE IS
REASON FOR CAUTIOUS OPTIMISM PERHAPS IN THE FACT THAT
KISSINGER MET SMITH, SINCE THE SECRETARY HAD INDICATED IN
ADVANCE THAT NO SUCH MEETING WOULD OCCUR UNLESS THERE WAS
REAL PROMISE OF PROGRESS...IF THERE IS TO BE PEACE IN
SOUTHERN AFRICA A GREAT DEBT OF GRATITUDE WILL BE/OWED
TO DR. KISSINGER AND THE USA FOR BRINGING THE PARTIES
TOGETHER. BUT ULTIMATELY IT WILL HAVE TO BE AN AFRICAN
SOLUTION WORKED OUT BY THE PEOPLES OF THE SUBCONTINENT
THEMSELVES. UNQUOTE.

6. JOHANNESBURG AFRIKAANS PAPER "DIE VADERLAND" CARRIED
FRONT PAGE REPORT OF THE THREE-SIDED TALKS. PAPER EDITORIALIZED
QUOTE DR. KISSINGER AND MR. VORSTER THIS WEEKEND ENGAGED
IN SURELY THEIR MOST TESTING AND DECISIVE ROUND OF TALKS.
MOMENTUM WAS ADDED BY THE PARTICIPATION OF MR. SMITH.
DETAILS AND DIRECTIONS ARE NOT YET CLEAR, BUT MUCH IS AT
STAKE...ONE ASPECT OF THE SECRETARY'S VISIT REQUIRES
ATTENTION: THE FACT THAT HE TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO MEET
WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF VARIOUS GROUPS AND RACES HERE SHOULD
NOT BE INTERPRETED AS INTERFERENCE IN OUR DOMESTIC AFFAIRS.
HE WAS SIMPLY AIMING AT REACHING A BROAD SPECTRUM OF
OPINION ON OUR NATION'S PARTICULAR PROBLEMS. UNQUOTE.
HUGHES

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DHA-02 /066 W

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7. JOHANNESBURG AFRIKAANS PAPER "BEELD" HEADLINE "BREAK-
THROUGH ON ROAD TO PEACE." REPORT SAID
" POSSIBILITIES OF A DRAMATIC BREAKTHROUGH ON THE RHODESIAN
CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUE WERE STRENGTHENED BY DR. KISSINGER'S
SHORT STATEMENT AFTER EIGHT HOURS TALKS WITH PREMIER
SMITH." PAPER EDITORIALIZED QUOTE YESTERDAY'S HISTORIC
SUMMIT AT LIBERTAS INDICATED IN WHAT MEASURES RSA AFFAIRS
HAVE COME TO INTERNATIONAL ATTENTION. PEACE AND WAR IN
OUR REGION DEPEND ON RHODESIAN AND SWA SOLUTIONS. ALL
WHO VALUE PEACE AND PROGRESS IN OUR SUBCONTINENT WILL
HOPE THAT NOTHING GETS IN THE WAY. THE PRICE IS TOO GREAT.
UNQUOTE.

8. JOHANNESBURG PAPER AIMED AT BLACK READERS " THE WORLD"
HEADLINE " RHODESIA: BIG 3 IN TALKS." REPORT SAID " HOPES
FOR A PEACEFUL SOLUTION TO THE RHODESIAN SETTLEMENT DISPUTE
ROSE LAST NIGHT WITH THE ANNOUNCEMENT THAT RSA, USA AND
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RHODESIAN LEADERS WERE MEETING IN A 3-POWER SUMMIT IN
PRETORIA." PAPER EDITORIALIZED QUOTE IT MAY WELL BE
THAT FUTURE GENERATIONS WILL BEMOAN THE FACT THAT THE UNITED
STATES OF AMERICA, AS THE LEADER OF THE WESTERN WORLD,
WAITED UNTIL JUST ABOUT THE 11TH HOUR BEFORE TAKING SUFFICIENT
INTEREST IN THE AFFAIRS OF AFRICA. ONE CAN WELL
UNDERSTAND THE PREDICAMENT OF UNITED STATES SECRETARY OF
STATE, DR. HENRY KISSINGER, WHO IS WORKING AGAINST TIME
TO ATTEMPT TO AVOID THE BLOODY CONFRONTATION THAT THE
ENTIRE OF SOUTHERN AFRICA IS HEADING FOR. WHILST ONE
CAN SYMPATHIZE-- AND IN MANY WAYS ADMIRE THE STAMINA HE
DEMONSTRATES TOWARDS THE MAINTENANCE OF PEACE-- WE CANNOT
BUT FEEL A CERTAIN PESSIMISM ABOUT HIS CHANCES OF SUCCESS.
FAR FROM SUGGESTING THAT WE HAVE REACHED A POINT OF NO
RETURN, WE SOMEHOW DOUBT THE ABILITY OF BOTH THE SOUTH
AFRICAN PRIME MINISTER, MR. VORSTER AND HIS RHODESIAN
COUNTERPART, MR. IAN SMITH, TO FULLY APPRECIATE THE
URGENCY OF THE SITUATION. IN SPITE OF THE MASSIVE EVIDENCE
THAT THIS COUNTRY IS IN A STATE OF NATIONAL UNREST AND IS
FACING A FAR GREATER CRISIS THAN WE HAVE EVER KNOWN, MR.
VORSTER INSISTS THAT THERE IS NO CRISIS AT ALL. DESPITE

HEAVEY EVIDENCE THAT POLARIZATION AMONG THE COUNTRY'S RACIAL GROUPS IS REACHING ALARMING PROPORTIONS, MR. VORSTER SAYS THAT RACE RELATIONS HAVE NEVER BEEN BETTER. RHODESIA, ON THE OTHER HAND, IS IN EVEN WORSE SHAPE. WITH COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT THERE AND THE BLACK NATIONALISTS COMPLETELY BROKEN DOWN, MR. SMITH ARROGANTLY CLUTCHES ON TO THE REINS OF POWER WITHOUT ANY EVIDENCE AT ALL OF A WILLINGNESS TO SEEK A WAY OUT OF THE COUNTRY'S CRISIS. THIS IS WHY WE ARE PESSIMISTEC. UNQUOTE.

9. JOHANNESBURG LIBERAL ENGLISH PAPER " RAND DAILY MAIL" HEADLINE" DR. K. IS HOPEFUL." REPORT SAID SECRETARY HAD " REPORTED PROGRESS AFTER HISTORIC 3-MAN SUMMIT WITH SMITH AND VORSTER. DR. KISSINGER SAID HE BELIEVED MR. SMITH WOULD REPORT BACK FAVORABLY TO HIS CABINET AND PARTY CAUCUS THE PROPOSALS PUT TO HIM DURING EIGHT HOURS OF TALKS."

10. JOHANNESBURG CONSERVATIVE ENGLISH PAPER " THE CITIZEN" HEADLINE " DR. K HAS HOPE FOR RHODESIA." REPORT SAID SECRETARY'S SUNDAY NIGHT STATEMENT " INDICATED THERE WAS UNCLASSIFIED

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CONSIDERABLE GROUND FOR OPTIMISM OVER THE RHODESIAN ISSUE."

11. PRETORIA AFRIKAANS PAPER " OGGENDBLAD" HEADLINE" RHODESIA SOLUTION CLOSE." REPORT SAID " OBSERVERS WERE LAST NIGHT CAUTIOUSLY OPTIMISTIC THAT THE KISSINGER/SMITH MEETING COULD LEAD TO A SOLUTION FOR RHODESIA," ANOTHER REPORT SAME PAPER FRONT PAGE SAID SECRETARY HAD SUGGESTED TO SMITH A CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE ON RHODESIA COULD BE HELD IN LONDON" IN A MATTER OF WEEKS." REPORT QUOTED CORRESPONDENT JOHN WALLACH OF HEARST NEWSPAPERS. PAPER EDITORIALIZED QUOTE THERE ARE SIGNS OF PROGRESS ON THE RHODESIAN ISSUE. A PROCESS HAS BEEN SET IN MOTION. THERE ARE SIGNS THE LOGJAM MIGHT BE EASING. ONE CAN ONLY SPECULATE ON THE DETAILS. NATURALLY, THE USA SEEKS TO AVOID REPETITION. JUST AS SURELY, MR SMITH CANNOT BE EXPECTED TO RECOMMEND TO HIS CABINET THAT RHODESIA BE HANDED OVER IMMEDIATELY TO BLACK MAJORITY RULE. UNQUOTE.

12. PRETORIA AFRIKAANS PAPER " HOOFTAD" HEADLINE " DR. K GOES, BUT BIG QUESTIONS REMAIN." REPORT SAID " ENTIRE SOUTHERN AFRICA IN STATE OF HIGH EXPECTATION OVER FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS AFTER KISSINGER WEEKEND VISIT TO PRETORIA." PAPER EDITORIALIZED QUOTE IT WILL BE WEEKS BEFORE THE FULL IMPLICATIONS OF THE VISIT CAN BE EVALUATED. BUT MEANWHILE A CONSIDERABLE DEGREE OF OPTIMISM CAN BE JUSTIFIED. DR. KISSINGER AND MR. SMITH HAVE PUT THEIR

VIEWPOINTS TO EACH OTHER, AND MR. VORSTER HAS CONVINCED
THE SECRETARY OF THE BLOODLESS PATH TO CONSTITUTIONAL
PROGRESS FOR SWA. UNQUOTE.
HUGHES

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, HUMAN RIGHTS, INTERIM GOVERNMENT, MINISTERIAL VISITS, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976PRETOR04239
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760365-0722, D760355-0518
From: PRETORIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760941/aaaabiwi.tel
Line Count: 281
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 6
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: vandyklc
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 FEB 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12 FEB 2004 by MaustMC>; APPROVED <26 AUG 2004 by vandyklc>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MEDIA REPORTING KISSINGER AFRICA TRIP
TAGS: SOPN, PFOR, OVIP, SF, XJ, US, (KISSINGER, HENRY A)
To: USIA STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006